

**LPG Agencies In Bihar**

† 652. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of LPG agencies is various districts of Bihar as on 31st January, 2001;
- (b) Whether the above number *is* less in comparison to the increasing population;
- (c) if so, whether any proposal of Government of Bihar is under Centra] Government's consideration for establishing more agencies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE XN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are operating 154 LPG distributorships in the State of Bihar as on 31st January, 2001.

(b) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 199 LPG distributorships under various Marketing Plans in the State of Bihar to increase the infrastructure for distribution of LPG.

**Oil Exploration in Mahanadi Deep Water Basin**

653. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC and Gas Authority of India have been entrusted the task for oil exploration in Mahanadi deep water basin in 2000-2001;
- (b) if so, the details of the survey/exploration undertaken by ONGC and Gas Authority of India during that financial year in that river basin;
- (c) the results thereof; and

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† Original notice of the Question was receive J in Hindi.

(d) the next further steps taken for the proper exploration of oil and gas in that basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) In Mahanadi Basin the consortium of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has been awarded shallow water block MN-OSN-97/3 for oil exploration under the first round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-I). Additionally, ONGC, on its own has been awarded one deep water block MN-DWN-98/3 under NELP-I in Mahanadi Basin. The contracts for both the blocks mentioned in reply to (a) above were signed on 12.4.2000.

(b) and (c) The preliminary exploration work including the study and analysis of existing data is under progress and the work relating to seismic survey will be taken up soon.

(d) One more block MN-DWN-98/2 in Mahanadi Basin has been awarded and the contract signed on 12.4.2000 to the consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd., India and Niko Resources, Canada under NELP-I. Three more blocks in Mahanadi Basin are on offer under the second round of NELP, out of which two blocks are in shallow waters Offshore and one block in Onland area.

#### **Exploration of New Oil Resources**

654. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 25 percent of the prognosticated oil resources have been discovered over a period of 100 years and self reliance in oil is reducing over the years till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that inspite of respected offers for exploration in sedimentary Basins very little interest has been shown by international oil companies or Indian private sector to explore in the virgin basins; and

(d) the strategy of Government to tackle this situation?